

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN STANLEY FISHER**, on February 12, 2001
at 8:00 A.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Stanley Fisher, Chairman (R)
Sen. Arnie Mohl, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)
Rep. Jeff Pattison (R)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
Sen. Tom Zook (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Mary LaFond, OBPP
Lorene Thorson, Legislative Branch
Sandra Whitaker, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: Department of Corrections New
Proposals for Reductions
2/9/2001
Executive Action: Department of Corrections
Global Motion, DP 699 and 698

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HEARING ON THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

NEW PROPOSALS

February 12, 2001

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CHAIRMAN FISHER called the meeting to order. **Ms. Lorene Thorson, Legislative Fiscal Division**, distributed information regarding the proposed budget reductions made by the Department of Corrections.

EXHIBIT(jch35a01)

Mr. Bill Slaughter, Director, Department of Corrections, and Ms. Becky Buska, Chief, Budget/ Fiscal Bureau, Department of Corrections (DOC), explained the proposed budget reductions. The committee had asked the DOC to reduce the budget requests by approximately \$8,000,000. The DOC made some reductions based on the proposed changes in fourth time offenders Driving Under the Influence (DUI) law being revised. Depending on how that law is changed, the DOC figures could change also. **CHAIRMAN FISHER** asked if the DOC was comfortable in that the proposed reductions do not compromise public safety or personal safety in any way. **Mr. Slaughter** responded he was comfortable with that issue.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 70}

EXHIBIT(jch35a02)

The following is an overview of the proposed reductions:

Decision Package (DP) 113 in Professional Services Division; DP 114 in Administrative Support Division; DP 115 in the Professional Services Division; DP's 211, 212, and 213 in the Pre-release Division; DP 214 in Juvenile Placement; DP 215 in the Probation and Parole Division; DP 216 in Transition Centers; DP 331 in Contract Beds; and DP 301 in Montana State Prison's FTE's. The proposed reductions totaled \$7,317,335 for the biennium.

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There was questions and discussion by the committee on several of the proposals. Of greatest concern was the reduction in contract beds, reductions in juvenile placement, and other reductions in the pre-release programs.

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SEN. ZOOK thanked the DOC for the work they had done in such a short time. He commented the Department should know best where to take reductions and this would be very helpful to the committee in making their decisions.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 95}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS GLOBAL MOTION

Motion/Vote: **SEN. ZOOK** moved that **THE BASE LEVEL OF FUNDING PLUS STATEWIDE PRESENT LAW ADJUSTMENTS (TO INCLUDE DP 699 - ADDED VACANCY SAVINGS, AND DP 698 - DECREASE RENT OF STATE BUILDINGS) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS BE ADOPTED. Motion passed unanimously.**

SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked the DOC to look further at the local jail time costs being more standardized. There is a large difference among counties for jail costs.

CHAIRMAN FISHER again thanked the Department of Corrections for bringing these figures forward and stated the committee would like to study the proposed reductions as presented by the DOC. The committee will hear from Military Affairs on Tuesday, February 13, 8:00 a.m. regarding additional reductions in that Department and take executive action on the DOC's reductions beginning at 9:00 a.m.

CHAIRMAN FISHER adjourned the meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:15 A.M.

REP. STANLEY FISHER, Chairman

SANDRA WHITAKER, Secretary

SF/SW

EXHIBIT (jch35aad)